

Public Access

Recommendation 7: The State of New Hampshire should fully fund legal services staffing for traditional civil legal services.

The general fund appropriation for civil legal services was increased during the 2007 legislative session, allowing for the creation of a Concord office of New Hampshire Legal Assistance, which lawmakers had approved in separate legislative action.

In January 2007, the Supreme Court established an Access to Justice Commission to develop and implement policy initiatives to expand access to and enhance the quality of justice in civil legal matters for New Hampshire residents.

The Commission, composed of lawyers and non-lawyers, is chaired by Associate Supreme Court Justice James E. Duggan and Chief Justice Steven J. McAuliffe of the U.S. District Court in Concord. The Commission held its first meeting in February 2007 and established an executive committee and subcommittees, which have continued to meet to address specific topics related to the delivery of civil legal services.